

Sidney L Smith

post #24 of

The American Legion



2007 - 2008

YEARBOOK OF
Sidney L Smith

post #24 of

The American Legion

ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

FOR 2007 TO 2008

Compiled by: Charles D Strom - Post Historian

Introduction

History - The American Legion

In late January, 1919, as the first World War drew near to completion, a group of officers met at Faubourg St. Honore in Paris France. All four were combat line officers (at the battalion or regimental level);



Lt Col Theodore Roosevelt Jr

Lt. COL. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (left), the son of our 26th US President and Medal of Honor recipient, from the 1st Division,

Lt. COL. George White, general HQ, the American Expeditionary Force in France,

Lt. COL. William Donovan (right), part of New York's "Fighting 69th", Medal of Honor recipient, and "father" of the CIA, and

Major Eric Fisher Wood, of the 88th Division.



Lt Col Will Donovan

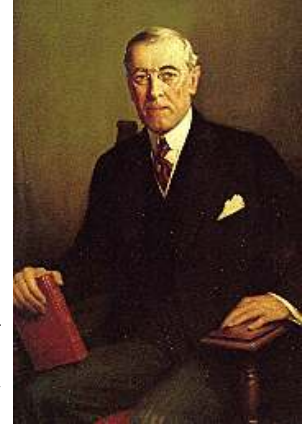
With a lead role taken by Roosevelt, these four men conceived the idea of a veteran’s organization, similar to the Grand Army of the Republic that had thrived after the conclusion of the Civil War. With a potential membership pool of over two million servicemen from the war, most of whom had been unfamiliar with Europe in any but the vaguest of ways, the organization would be a tremendous opportunity for fellowship as servicemen started returning home. Several names were considered, including “Liberty League”, “Legion of Honor”, and “American Crusaders”.



General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing - head of the AEF - was initially opposed to the idea, but as it’s popularity grew in the ranks of the officers and enlisted men he agreed to give the subject a chance. An organizational meeting was set at the Inter-Allied Officers’ Club in Paris for the 15th to 17th of March in 1919. This event, which came to be known as the “Paris Caucus”, is considered the official beginning of the organization.

The Paris Caucus, consisting of approximately 1,000 officers and enlisted men, adopted a temporary constitution, and chose The American Legion as the name of the organization. It also elected an executive committee

to complete the work of establishing The American Legion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the US. A boost was given to the Paris Caucus when President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France to participate in the peace treaty conference at Versailles; Wilson would also give his endorsement to The American Legion when they held their next organizational meeting.



President Wilson

This second caucus was held in St. Louis, Missouri during May of 1919. There, the American Legion constitution was completed and a temporary draft was submitted to the membership. Included in the Legion's mission were relief, employment, and Americanism programs.

Congress granted the Legion a national charter on September 16, 1919 and the first national convention was held in Minneapolis Nov 10th - 12th of that year. In Minneapolis The American Legion adopted a permanent constitution and elected officers to head the organization.

The charter was amended in 1942 to admit World War II veterans and again in 1950 to include veterans of the Korean War. Later it included soldiers who had served in conflicts in Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf and

has been open since August 2, 1990 until congress closes the dates.

The Legion's major concern has always been the veterans. It played an important role in the creation of the US Veterans Administration and the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights for World War II and Korean Veterans. Also important has been the community, youth, and Americanism.



National Headquarters,
Indianapolis, In

The American Legion temporary national headquarters, set after the St Louis Caucus, was located in New York City, but delegates to the first convention chose Indianapolis over Washington DC as the permanent home for the national organization in a close (361-323) vote.

The Legion does, however, still keep an office in Washington DC, just three blocks from the White House, to support frequent visits to the seat of government by the National Commander. Also located here are offices of an executive director, and operations for Legislative, Economics, National Security, Foreign Relations, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Media Relations.

The American Legion's national headquarters is located at 700 N Pennsylvania St, in Indianapolis, Indiana - part of the Indiana War Memorial Plaza.

History - South Dakota

Department of The American Legion



The South Dakota Department of The American Legion was organized simultaneously with the national organization. South Dakota Adjutant General William A. Morris named Theodore R. Johnson of Sioux Falls to select a committee of representative ex-service men to attend the first caucus in St Louis, Missouri, May 8-10, 1919.

After the first national caucus, a temporary South Dakota organization was formed at Vermillion on May 15, 1919 with Theodore R. Johnson as chairman. The first state convention was held in Sioux Falls on July 14 and 15, 1919. Myron L. Shade of Mitchell was elected the first Department Commander. Forty-eight posts had been organized by convention time.

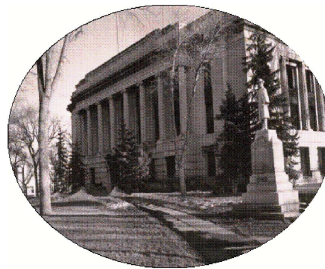
The South Dakota Department now consists of 249 posts with just over 24,000 members.

One of the American Legion programs with South Dakota roots is American Legion baseball, now a

nationwide program. It was conceived at the state convention at Milbank in 1925. Frank Sieh of Aberdeen originated the idea of an American Legion program to sponsor youth baseball, and it was passed at the Department Convention. A granite monument at Milbank commemorates the formation of Legion Baseball there.



The South Dakota American Legion Department Headquarters is located in the Codington County courthouse in Watertown. The South Dakota Legion contributed to the construction cost of that courthouse and thus was granted rent-free space in the courthouse for the life of the building.



Codington County Courthouse

History - Sidney L Smith, Post #24 - Aberdeen, SD

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Like most towns in the great plains, Aberdeen was started as a railroad town. Charles H Prior, the town site agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St Paul railroad filed the first papers at the land office in Watertown, part of the Dakota Territory, for a town to be located at the spot where his employer's rail line

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home here by President McKinley in October of 1899 after returning from duty under General McArthur in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. The rail lines also played a vital role in delivering recruits to the US Army in both World Wars, and when the USO and Red Cross built a canteen in the Milwaukee Rail depot in 1943, they couldn't have known that it would become one of Aberdeen's most memorable locations.

From its opening on the 14th of August until just before Christmas, the canteen provided over 150,000 free meals to troops passing through the station; a remarkable endeavor, but the real history was still to come.



Recreation of Pheasant Canteen, display in the Dakota Prairie Museum.

Local farmers, still eager to contribute to the canteen despite being well past the harvest season, donated pheasants from recent hunts to the canteen and started a trend that would lead to the canteen becoming unofficially renamed the "Pheasant Canteen". With an average of over 500 soldiers per day traveling through the depot, the Pheasant Canteen continued to give a free meal to every serviceman, highlighted by the now famous pheasant sandwiches. Any soldier arriving at the depot on their birthday would also receive a special cake, and there was a decorated tree each Christmas and colored eggs each Easter. When the Pheasant Canteen closed on the 31st of March, 1946, between 510,000 and 600,000 servicemen had been feed, all at no cost to themselves or the

military. Every meal was donated by the residents of Aberdeen and 40 other towns within a 75 mile radius.

Of course, support for the serviceman was nothing new to the Aberdeen area. The VFW had formed a presence in the town as early as 1903 (fourth oldest continuously active post), and The American Legion followed in 1919.

When the first organizational meeting of the South Dakota American Legion was held in Vermillion on May 15th, 1919, several servicemen from Aberdeen attended; three of them, E.B. Harkin, Royal C. Johnson, and P.J. Maloney, were selected to serve on the temporary Executive Committee for the new group. Two months later, when the first SD Legion convention was held in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen was one of 48 posts that had already signed on to the organization, having been chartered on the 14th of July, 1919 with eighteen members. Post officers that first year were; Perry Peters - Commander, Ivan Leach - Vice Commander, Paul Maloney - Adjutant, Fred Huntington - Insurance, and Paul Kiser - Publicity.

Post meetings were held in the Municipal Auditorium, and the primary focus of the Aberdeen American Legion during those early years was on aiding men who were just finishing their military service and returning home. They started a veterans employment program in the city, had a theatrical troupe that performed annual plays (starting in 1920) at the local theater, and had an active post band.

Music in particular, was a source of pride for many of Post 24's early years. In addition to the musical theater and

post band, a drum and bugle corps was organized in 1927 by Carl Eilert, and during the 30's they won eight state championships (and missed the other two for prior engagements) and made the national finals.



Sidney Lawrence Smith

The Sidney L Smith post was named, though slightly incorrectly, in honor of Private First Class Sidney Lawrence Smith, the first Aberdeen casualty of the US military in the “Great War” (World War I). Private Smith actually went by the name of Larry, and the name of the post should have been the “S. Lawrence Smith post of The American Legion”, but when the charter was drawn up, the post was actually constituted as “Sidney L Smith”.

Smith was not the only name considered for the honor, John Thomas and Colonel W.A. Hazle where also considered when the post was being formed. Col Hazle was the highest ranking officer to serve from Aberdeen during the war, but was discarded as the national rules specified that posts could not be named after a person who was still living. John Thomas, son of Professor and Mrs Iver D

Thomas, was actually the first person from Aberdeen to give the ultimate sacrifice in what would become known as the First World War, and there was a group of initial members who championed having him as the namesake of the post. John Thomas, however, had enlisted and fought in the Canadian military, and the majority of members thought it was better to name the post after a serviceman of the US military, so Sidney Lawrence Smith was chosen.

Born in Canton, Illinois (1896) and having gone to military school in Roswell, NM, S Lawrence “Larry” Smith had moved to Aberdeen with his parents, Professor and Mrs S Lincoln Smith, in 1915 and had joined the military as part of the South Dakota national guard, enlisting just three days after the US declared it’s involvement in World War I.

He was stationed at Camp Pontis in Mobridge, SD when he transferred to the 148th Machine Gun Battalion. He later transferred again to the 1st Infantry Division, 18th Brigade, Company L where he saw action at the Battle of Cantigny, and was in the trenches for 70 days at Montdidier, France. In Fosh’s big drive, Smith’s company took part in the battle of Chateau-Thierry, and then Sessions, where he was sent out as part of a twenty man scouting party commanded by Captain Renne. This unit came under fire, was surrounded by German soldiers, and was unable to retreat while conducting their reconnaissance.

Messages had come back to the family that Pvt

Smith had been wounded, reports followed that he was in a hospital, but then no further word was received. Smith was listed as missing in action for nine months before Congressman Royal C. Johnson assisted the Red Cross' efforts to determine his fate. Finally a letter arrived from Captain Renne, one of the few men to survive the encounter. "Sidney Laurence Smith, killed in action by a German machien gun at Siossons, Frace."

Smith's official status was soon changed from MIA to KIA, and a telegram was sent to his family from the adjutant general's office at Washington, DC, it read as follows:

"Pvt. Sidney L. Smith, Infantry previously reported severely wounded in action between July 18 and July 24, now reported Killed in action July 20." [1918]

Thanks/Acknowledgments

Sincere thanks is given to all of the following for their help in providing the information used in this introduction:

Charemon Dunham, Historian for the Department of South Dakota, for the information on the national and state organization's histories.

The Alexander Mitchell Library and the Dakota Prairie Museum, in Aberdeen, SD, for the information on Aberdeen's origins and military history.

The-roundup, Honolulu, Hi (<http://www.the-roundup.com>), for all their information on Sidney L Smith in their family genealogy.

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Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

to maintain law and order;

to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;

to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

to make right the master of might;

to promote peace and good will on earth;

to safeguard and transmit to Posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Sidney L Smith

post #24 of

The American Legion



The Year that was 2007

by Charles D. Strom, Historian

Chapter One:

Roster of Post Officers



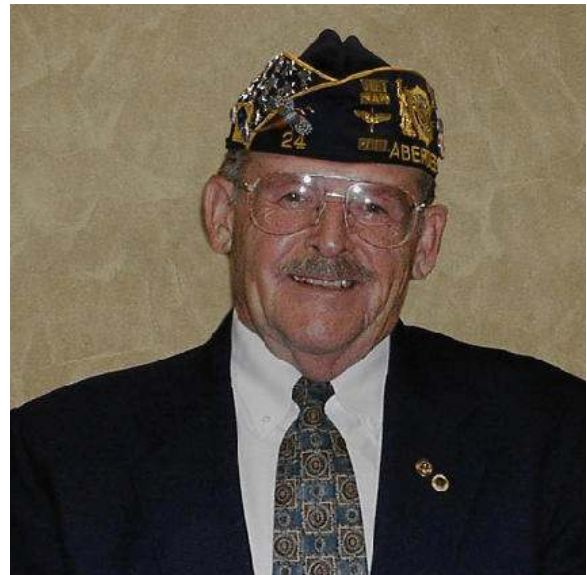
2007 Post Commander - Steve Nemmers



First Vice Commander - Sam Olson



Second Vice Commander - Tom Perrizo



Adjutant - Gene Schumacher



Chaplain - Al Sebert



Finance - Rich Kezar



Sergeant at Arms - Greg Vande Kamp



Assistant Sergeant at Arms - Sid Beckler



Service - Tom Gohn



Historian - Dale Strom

Chapter Two:

Post Committee Chairs



Americanism - Paula Beckler



Athletics - Tom Perrizo



Employment - Garry Warne



Children and Youth - Earl Schultz

Chapter Three:

Post Chronicle

Monday April 16th
Commander Steve Nemmers and the 2007 officers for post #24 started their term on the 16th of April, when they were duly elected by the members of the Sidney L Smith post, convened in regular session at the VFW building, 821 Circle Drive, Aberdeen, SD.

<u>2007 Post Officers</u>	
Commander	Steve Nemmers
1 st Vice	Sam Olsen
2 nd Vice	Tom Perrizo
Finance	Rich Kezar
Chaplin	Al Sebert
Sergeant @ Arms	Greg Vande Kamp
Asst sgt@Arms	Sid Beckler
Historian	Dale Strom
Employment	Gary Warne
Athletic	Tom Perrizo
Americanism	Paula Beckler
Service	Tom Gohn
Children and Youth	Earl Schultz
Adjutant*	Gene Schumacher

* Adjutant Schumacher was appointed by the commander and approved by the floor in the May regular meeting.



2007 officers being sworn in by adjutant (and Department Finance Officer) Gene Schumacher after being elected at the April regular meeting. Officers pictured are (left to right) Greg Vande Kamp, Al Sebert, Steve Nemmers, Tom Perrizo, Dale Strom, Paula Beckler, and Rich Kezar. Present, but not shown were Sam Olson and Sid Beckler.

Sunday April 29th



Parking lot prior to BSD



Officer Theroux setting up



Course is setup, just waiting for students

Officer Keith Theroux of the Aberdeen Police Department, and several volunteers from Post 24, the Aberdeen DAV, and the Aberdeen VFW descended on the parking lot early one Sunday morning to transform it from empty asphalt to a challenge course for Bicycle Safety Day.



Aberdeen Ambulance and Aberdeen Fire Department both brought out their trucks for the events as well, to familiarize the kids with their equipment and put them at ease with the officers. The hope is that, in the unfortunate instance that one of the children should ever need either

service, they will be less afraid and traumatized by it. Both organizations also donated children's helmets to be given away at the event.

The Bicycle Safety Day was co-sponsored by all three Aberdeen veterans groups, The American Legion, the VFW, and the DAV, as well as the Aberdeen Police Department.



Greg Vande Kamp (far left) speaks with some of the parents before the event begins



The line of students and parents waiting for registration.

As the first year of the event, the post had hoped for 20 to 30

elementary school kids to show up with their bikes. We were pleasantly surprised by a turnout of more than double that number as 65 children went through the safety course.





Aberdeen Police Department bicycle officer Kyle Stoddard (foreground) helps with the safety inspection station while registration begins (background)



Reserve officer J Arlt mans the "Driveway Exiting" station



Americanism Officer Paula Beckler (left) speaks with the members of the Aberdeen Fire Department. Bicycle Officer Anthony Bisbee (right) at the "Intersection" station.



Legion (and DAV) member Allen Oschner at the "Sign Reading" course

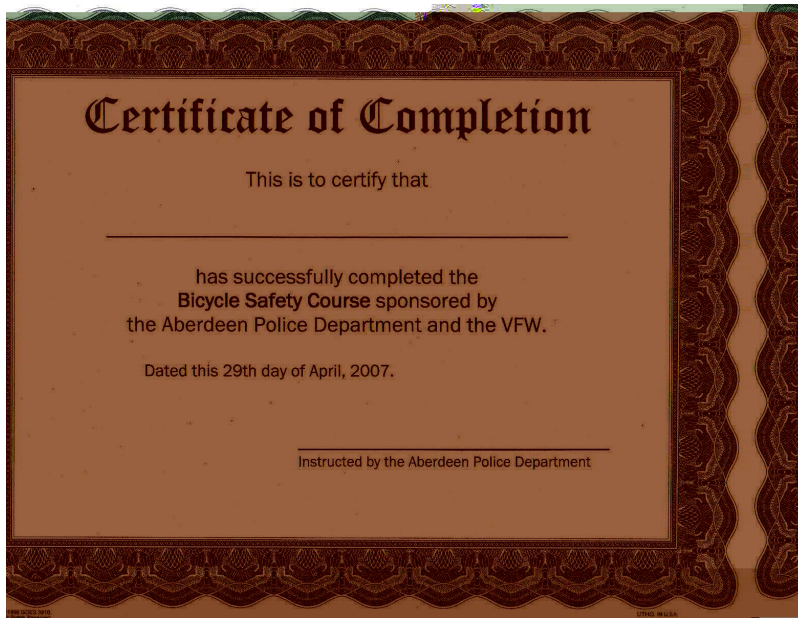


Police reserve officer Gelhaouse, also at the "Sign Reading" station (other end of same table as Allen Oschner, (above).

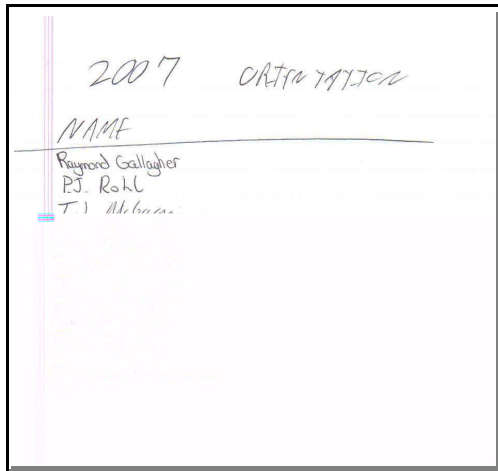


Reserve officer Mike Miller at the "Slow Ride" station

Arleen Griffiths (left) issued certificates of completion and "Junior Officer" stickers after the course while Mary Peitz (right) handed out water, juice, tea, and cookies. Both are members of the VFW Auxiliary



May 6th



Local orientation session for students attending Boys State in 2007 was held at the Post home for those who didn't think they could make the district session.

Eight of the fifteen boys selected for Boys State attended, along with one parent. None of the 2006 attendees were able to be there, however, so that part of the presentation was missed.



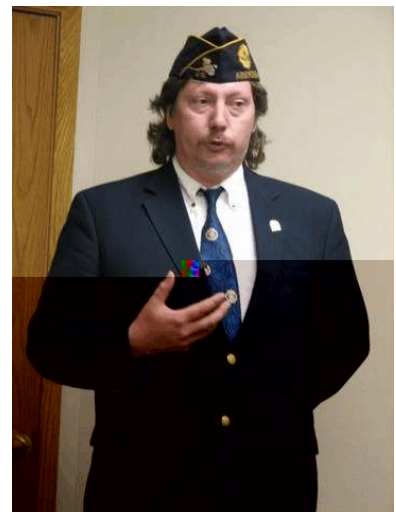
May 7th

Commander Nemmers and historian Strom attended a meeting of Girl Scout Troop 106. Three of the troop members, Ashley Thone, Sarah Rohrbach, and Tara Rook (left to right



Commander Nemmers

in photo with the commander), had helped out with the bicycle safety day and were presented with certificates of thanks for helping out. The presentation was made at the Girl Scout meeting Monday. While there, Nemmers and Strom also spoke about The American Legion, and answered questions from the girls and parents in attendance.



Historian Strom

May 12th - May 28th

May, of course, was time for Horse Races! Preparation had been ongoing since March; members Gene Schumacher, Larry Nupen, Ed Lambert, and Tom Perrizo had been selling ads for the race programs in that time. Second vice Perrizo had also been contacting workers since taking over that position after the April meeting and had a work crew lined up for opening weekend.



Hollis Anderson, Sid Beckler, and Kevin Reiter (left to right) man the concessions at horse races.

With flooding still an issue around town, it was hard to tell what type of crowd to expect at the event. Weather predictions were for a warm, dry weekend (a departure from the normal opening weekend of races), so hopes were high for a good first two days.

Running the beer and program concessions, a standing arrangement with the NAHRA (Northeast Area Horse Racing Association), along with

Al Sebert was one of many members to help out selling tickets for the concessions.





Tom Perrizo (left) and Gene Schumacher took turns running the racing programs stand.

the sale of advertising for the programs, is one of the posts three major fund raisers each year. It is somewhat labor intensive (averaging almost 600 man hours, including the sale of ads), but the work is mostly pleasant and the members have time to talk with the customers, share stories, and “maintain quality control” of the beer coming out of the taps.

The Legion also keeps it’s name associated with the event through the Legion Stakes, an important race held on the last day. The award for this race is made by the Legion. With the Commander out of town, First Vice Olson presented it this year.



First Vice Commander Sam Olson (far left) presented the trophy to the Jockey, owners, and trainer of the winning horse in the Legion Stakes.

May 15th

During the same time period as horse races were going on, the post presented awards at Roncalli High School. Chaplain Greg Vande Kamp presented the citizenship/scholastic award medals and certificates to Micheal Zerr and Kelsey Lonning.

Historian, and member of the Americanism committee, Dale Strom presented certificates to Roncalli students chosen to

attend the 2007 session of Boys

State, as well as filling in for the Auxiliary to present the Girls State awards for the school.



Chaplain Vande Kamp presented the citizenship awards at RHS.



Historian Strom presented the certificates for Boys State at RHS.



Michael Zerr (left), and Kelsey Lonning (right), winners of the citizenship awards for RHS, shown with Chaplain Vande Kamp.

May 28th

Memorial Day is one of the Post's biggest patriotic events. While the VFW in town handles Veterans Day, the Legion post puts on the Memorial Day program, and preparation and organization was started earlier, but the start of the weekend for most members is flagging graves of service members. The Post flaged both Riverside cemeteries, just over 1100 grave sites, Thursday evening and left the flags in place until Wednesday.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



American News Photo by Dawn Dietrich-Sahli

Flagging the veterans: Earl Schultz of Aberdeen arranged today's Memorial Day program at Riverside Cemetery. It begins at 10 a.m. Schultz, a Vietnam veteran, now works as state director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Veteran's Employment and Training Service program. A native of Corona, he has lived in Aberdeen since 1979.

Honoring their sacrifices

By Scott Waltman

Placing the American flags on the headstones at Veterans of Riverside Cemetery on Thursday evening was a solemn task for Earl Schultz, 61, of Aberdeen. Schultz, a Vietnam veteran, is in charge of Memorial Day programs. The Veterans of Riverside is a local veterans organization.

In a nutshell

- Earl Schultz, 61, of Aberdeen is one of about 10 people putting out U.S. flags at Riverside in

Veterans: Came to Hub City in 1979

Continued from Page 1A

past wars.

Injured by mortar fire: In Vietnam, Schultz was an infantry Marine. While in the field, he was struck by mortar fragments in May 1968 near the end of his four-year enlistment. He returned to South Dakota and his hometown of Corona shortly thereafter. He said he was the first Vietnam veteran to enter the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Sioux Falls.

Schultz enrolled in a VA vocational rehabilitation program and earned a degree in sociology from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

After he graduated, Schultz worked for a while in sales, then as a local veterans' representative at employment offices in Sioux Falls and Huron. In 1979, Schultz moved from Huron to Aberdeen. He's been working as director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service program in South Dakota.

Helping veterans: Simply put, Schultz said, most of his job involves helping veterans who have problems with their employers once returning to work after serving. Schultz investigates and resolves the problems. If they can't be resolved, the matters end up in federal court. But, he said, none of the issues arising from the ongoing wars in Iraq or Afghanistan have wound up in court.

Schultz has been married to his wife Shirley for 38 years. They have two sons — Aaron, who teaches sociology at Presentation College, and Brandon, who works for the VA.

Aberdeen, Schultz said, has treated his family well. He's only 100 miles or so away from home, and his job allows him to help veterans.

Today, those who served are remembered — not just the troops still overseas, but those, like Schultz, who served in Vietnam. And those, like Thiele, who generations ago moved to the United States from other nations and served in the Civil War to gain their citizenship.

Clipping from Aberdeen American News, May 28th 2007



The Color Guard for Memorial Day 2007, left to right Gary Warne (American Flag), Curt Mislitz (SD Flag), Elton Herman (American Legion Flag), Vern Bunsness, Ed Lambert, Larry Shaunaman, Greg Vande Kamp, Larry Nupen, Paula Beckler; and Gordon Campbell (Squad leader). Photo taken at St Mary's Cemetery. Not pictured is rifleman Al Sebert.

The Legion Firing Squad was on hand for Memorial Day:

Commander - Gordon Campbell
American Flag - Gary Warne
SD State Flag - Curt Mislitz
Legion Flag - Elton Herman
Rifles - Paula Beckler, Vern Bunsness, Ed Lambert, Larry Nupen, Al Sebert, Larry Shaunaman, & Greg Vande Kamp



The Firing Squad met at the VFW and relaxed prior to performing at three ceremonies for Memorial Day. Left to right they are Larry Nupen (on edge of photo), Elton Herman, Curt Mislitz, Greg Vande Kamp, John Nelson (bugler), Vern Bunsness (far right), and Gordon Campbell (back to camera).



The Firing Squad was joined by Boy Scout John Nelson, who played *Taps*, and together they rendered honors at three of the four cemeteries in town - Sunset Memorial was closed due to flooding from the storms earlier in the month.



Sacred Heart and St Mary's were shorter services, as normal, with an opening prayer, the role call of interred service members at each site, the 21 gun salute, and *Taps*. Riverside Cemetery is normally a



short service as well, with the main program at Sunset. This year, however, with Sunset not available, the main program was held at Riverside (south).

A temporary podium was setup in front of the Grand Army of the Republic monument for the event, and the sound system was battery operated with a single speaker rather than our normal setup, but

the crowd was still strong for the event, and the comments were positive.

Jim Hundstad, SD State Senator from District Two was this year's keynote speaker, and the Dakota Heritage Choir provided music.



The setting for the main program at Riverside, in front of the GAR monument.



The Dakota Heritage Choir



Dale Strom (MC) speaks with Vern Bunsness prior to the program.



The VFW Auxiliary was one of the groups to post a wreath.



The Knights of Columbus, Third degree honor guard also placed a wreath during the program.



Jim Hunstad's keynote speech focused on the bugle, and he played several military songs during his presentation.

May 28th to June 1st

Memorial Day was also Boys State, and Aberdeen had 16 students in the program in 2007.

Boys State opens up eyes

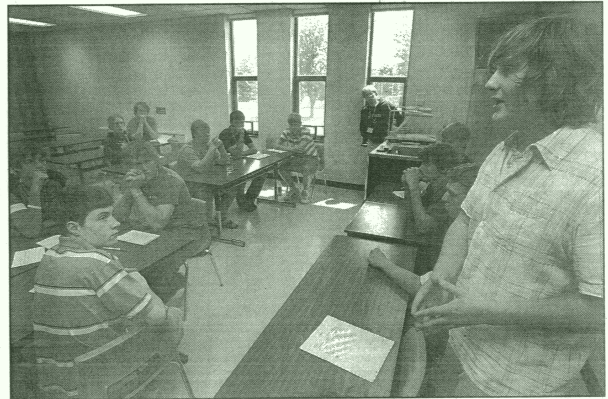
Attendees at Hub City event learn how America's political, governing systems work

By Jake Gantz
American News Writer

The thought of becoming a mayor, governor or state representative is often tucked away in the minds of youth somewhere behind astronaut and superhero.

However, Paul Pierson of Aberdeen has always been interested in politics. He has participated at the school level and knows what it's about. But this week, he has the honor and the difficult task of being the mayor of Los Angeles — that's the city of Los Angeles as defined by the American Legion and the 65th annual South Dakota Boys State, which lasts through Saturday at Northern State University in Aberdeen.

"I just think it's a really good experience," Pierson said. "I started talking with



American News Photo by John Davis

Making his case: Boys State mayor of Los Angeles and Aberdeen resident Paul Pierson, right, explains the medical marijuana bill and other delegates tried to pass in the Senate States Affairs Committee on Thursday.

ends about it and they at was a fun program. a see the government happen on TV, and if interested you can out it, but you still understand what it to be a member of a party. There's just so to learn."

State, is a member of analyst party, along

understanding of the political system. Pierson, among other duties, is spearheading efforts to pass a bill to legalize medical marijuana. He is the clerk of courts for his district.

Affairs Committee, and, of course, mayor of the City of

government process. I've been in elections this week. I've ran, helped other people run, I've lobbied a bill, written a bill, been mayor of my city ... all sorts of different

really good experience."

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Boys: 'Superb program'

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Herseth Sandlin, Gov. Mike Rounds and others.

"The first day or two, most of them just followed, and followed, and followed," said Hoerth, who was one of the speakers. "Then there were some kids that stepped up and said, 'Sure, I'll do this.' I thought that was pretty neat. They are young men, and hopefully they'll be participating citizens when it's over. We gave them the opportunity and that's fine."

Besides the government officials on hand, the American Legion had many of its own representatives there mingling with the boys, looking on proudly at their program and all it was teaching.

"As far as coming to Boys State, if you want to learn government, this is where you're going to learn it," said Aberdeen's own Gene Schumacher, the state registrar and former American Legion commander. "You start out with the basics and by the time they leave here you've got a governor, lieutenant governor, Supreme Court justices ... the whole works. It's just a superb program."

Objectives: A nationwide program, Boys State began in 1935 with the Illinois chapter of the American Legion. The South Dakota Boys State was founded in 1940 in Aberdeen. It is a

program that seeks to help youth better understand the American system of government and give a better knowledge of the fundamental principles of government within South Dakota.

Pierson has fully involved himself in the experience, gathering all the information and skills he can so that he can become involved in American politics for real.

"I turn 18 this summer and I'm excited to finally be able to register with a party and be involved with that process," Pierson said. "The elections are the most fun, either running or helping someone run. I like all the excitement of working up to the day when we vote and seeing how the vote turns out. I'm having a really good time and I've learned a lot. It's a really good experience."

Pride: The American Legion members are proud of the boys and the way the program is moving forward.

"I think it's going to be one of the best experiences they can have," said Ron Boyd, American Legion state adjutant. "They get a lot of government training and citizenship in the classroom setting, but they get out here at Boys State and it's live one-on-ones with leaders and movers from all across the state. Hopefully, we're helping to develop the leaders of tomorrow."

Aberdeen American News (June 1st, 2007, page 5A)

Smittys, Watertown split

By American News Sports Staff

WATERTOWN — After being held to four hits in an opening-game loss, the Aberdeen Smittys rebounded for a victory over Watertown and a split of their season-opening American Legion baseball doubleheader Thursday night.

The Smittys rode the five-hit pitching of Justin Kline to a 9-0 win in the nightcap after losing a 12-2 five-inning decision in the first game. A better effort at the plate coupled with strong pitching made the difference for the Smittys in the nightcap, said coach Mark Gulseth.

"We had a better approach at the plate and Justin threw a lot of strikes," said Gulseth. "We had trouble throwing

American Legion Baseball

strikes that first game." Kline allowed five singles and struck out eight batters while walking three. Dan O'Keefe, James Torigian and Lucas Jung each had two of Aberdeen's seven hits, including a two-run home run in the first inning for Torigian. Jung and Eric Cantwell each had a double, and Jung drove in four runs.

"Every time we got guys on base, we capitalized," said Gulseth. "We had better discipline at the plate."

Watertown had its way with the Smittys in the opening game, taking advantage of eight walks, Nate Mack and

each for the hosts. Pederson had a double and drove in three runs. Watertown pitcher Zach Bierscheid limited the Smittys to four hits, including a double by O'Keefe. Kline had an RBI single in the third inning, and Torigian and Michael Babcock also had base hits for the Smittys, who hit into four double plays in the opening game.

The Smittys return to action tonight, hosting Sioux Falls West at Fossam Field in a 5:30 p.m. doubleheader.

Aberdeen Smittys 101 00-241
Watertown 043 05-1282

Aberdeen Smittys 220 023 0-971
Watertown 000 000 0-052

Aberdeen American News, 01 June 08 - 1st game

Then June was rolling in, and that, of course, means Legion Baseball was getting into full swing. The first game of the year was actually the 31st of May at Watertown, with a home match up the next night against Sioux Falls West.

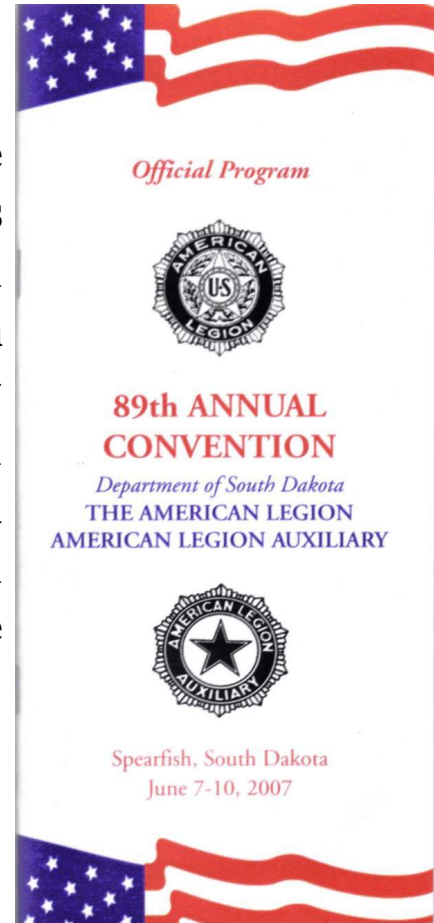
The Smittys had a good season, but came up just short in the playoffs in 2007. Still, with 16 boys on the team again, Legion Baseball remains one of the great programs of our organization, providing guidance for our youth, as well as good PR for The American Legion; keeping our name out in the public eye through our association with the sport.

2007 Smitty's Summer Schedule

Month	Date	Day	Location	Time
May	31	Thur	at Watertown	5:30 & 7:30pm
June	1	Fri	vs. Sioux Falls West	5:30 & 7:30pm
	4	Mon	vs. Mitchell	5:30 & 7:30pm
	9	Sat	vs. Northwestern	5:30 & 7:30pm
	16	Fri	vs. Sioux Falls East	5:30 & 7:30pm
	20	Wed	vs. Brookings	5:30 & 7:30pm
	22	Fri	Smitty Wood Bat Invite	7:30pm - Milbank
	23	Sat	Smitty Wood Bat Invite	6:00pm - Vermillion
	24	Sun	Smitty Wood Bat Invite	8:00pm - Detroit Lakes
	26	Tue	vs. Minot	8:00pm - CNW
	27	Wed	vs. Sioux Falls East	5:30pm (9-inning game) 7:30pm
July	1	Sun	vs. Grafton	5:30 & 7:30pm
	6	Fri	vs. Minot	5:30 & 7:30pm
	8	Sun	vs. Minot	5:30 & 7:30pm
	14	Wed	vs. Rapid City Post 22	7:00pm (7-inning game) at Detroit Lakes, Minn.
	15	Thu	vs. Rapid City Post 22	7:00pm (7-inning game) at Rapid City, S.D.
	16	Fri	vs. Rapid City Post 22	7:00pm (7-inning game) at Rapid City, S.D.
	17	Tue	vs. Watertown	5:30 & 7:30pm
	20	Fri	vs. Huron	5:30 & 7:30pm
	22	Sun	vs. Pierre	1:00 & 3:00pm
	23	Mon	at Rapid City Post 22	7:00pm (9-inning game) at Rapid City, S.D.
	24	Tue	at Rapid City Post 22	7:00pm (9-inning game) at Rapid City, S.D.
	25	Wed	at Rapid City Post 22	7:00pm (9-inning game) at Rapid City, S.D.
August	1-3		Regional 3A Tournament	at Helena, MT
	8-12		State Tournament	at Rapid City, S.D.
	16-20		Central Plains Regional	at Marshall, MO
	24-28		American Legion World Series	

June 7th - 10th

June is also time for the Department Convention, and delegates from Post 24 headed west to Spearfish to take. Also attending the convention from Aberdeen was our Law Enforcement Officer of the year, Keith Theroux, who was the second consecutive LEO from Aberdeen chosen for the same honor at the Department level.



Tom Perrizo, Ed Lambert, Dale Strom, Gene Schumacher, and Gary Warme (Left to Right) were 5 of the Post's delegates.



Larry Nupen (second from right) in one of the convention's committee meetings



Post delegates Sid Beckler (far left) and Larry Nupen (second from right) in the convention concourse area



Gary Warne (right) and Tom Perrizo (center) chat with other Legionnaires before the parade.



Keith Theroux, of Aberdeen, was named the Department's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year



Post member Earl Schultz presented the report of the Department's Employment Committee to the floor at the Convention.



Historian Dale Strom (center) was presented with an award for second place History book (2006). The presentation was made by Department Historian Dunham (right) and Department Commander Batruup (left)

June-August

After the helter-skelter couple of months that had follow the elections, however, the summer slowed down somewhat after the Department Convention. The post brought one idea back from the convention to work on over the summer, however, and that was a request forwarded to the members there by Department Children and Youth Chair, Sam Vaughn. She had received notice that a group was looking for used sporting goods equipment that could be reconditioned (if needed) and sent to the Rosebud Tribal Reservation to help build youth activities programs there. The Post decided to organize a drive in town with hopes of picking up “a few” items that could go toward this worthy cause. The program had just barely begun, however, when it received a major, and unexpected, boost. Member Greg Vande Kamp was talking with an Aberdeen resident, Dean Shortridge, about the program and Dean, a former golf pro at the country club, said he would be willing to donate some full sets of golf clubs to help start things out.



This story, from the July 13th edition of the Aberdeen American News (page 7A) really helped to kick start the equipment drive.



Dale Strom, Gary Warne, and Tom Perrizo (left to right) were the primary organizers of the drive, and are shown here in front of the first load to be sent down.

“Some” sets ended up being 10 complete bags full of clubs, and the publicity from the newspaper covering his donation helped to generate interest from others. Collection points were set up in the three

grocery stores in town, and between them, pickups made when somebody called and requested one, and a donation of a full set of baseball catcher’s pads from the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation office, Post #24 was able to donate two full pickup loads, and a couple of car loads as well, worth of sporting goods to the drive. Equipment ranged from fishing poles & lures, to golf balls & clubs, to inner tubes, baseball bats, bowling balls, and badminton sets. Overall, a very successful program, and one the Post hopes to continue in 2008.



The first (and largest) of three loads collected. Included were the golf clubs, baseball/softball bates, fishing gear and a badminton set.

July - September

While Post activities slowed over the summer and early fall, with only regular meetings and planning, members did keep busy with Legion events at other levels.

7-7-7 (July 7th of 2007) was the homecoming for Department Commander Watts, in White, SD. Tom Perrizo and Gary Warne from the post attended the event.



Tom Perrizo and Gary Warne at the Commander's Homcoming.



Gary Warne, Dean Beimers (of the Raymond post), Tom Perrizo, and Gene Schumacher (left to right) stand by the Department sign at the National Convention. All four are shown below with Department Commander Watts as well.



August saw several Post members travel to Reno, Nevada for the National Convention.

September brought the Commander's Calls for the Dept. and several members traveled to Conde for this event as well.



Larry Nupen (left) and Gary Warne (right) were among the members to attend the Commander's Call.

September to April

With the return of September came the return of Legion Monster Burgers. The kitchen crew takes the summer months off, turning the cooking duties over to the VFW from May through August, but returns on the second Monday (the first Monday is Labor day and no burgers are served).

Monster Burgers remained a popular event in 2007, and there were many times when the kitchen sold out of 150 pounds of hamburger in a night. The popularity of the burgers makes this not only one of our bigger fund raisers, but also a key part of our public relations efforts as people continue to associate Monster Burgers with The American Legion.



The kitchen crew for Monster Burgers. Tom Perrizo (far left with back to camera), Gary Warne (behind), Vern Bunsness, Glen Miller (back to camera), Sid Beckler, Gene Schumacher, and Rich Kezar. Not shown; Curt & Donna Mislitz, Greg Vande Kamp, Larry Nupen, and Joel Traphagen.

Oct 5th



Commander Nemmers spoke about the VRE program at the Fall District meeting.

The District 14 fall meeting was held in Selby, SD on the 5th of October. In addition to the normal activities at the meeting, the Post appraised the meeting of a proposal to get involved with the VRE project.

A local doctor, and post member, Tom Lechner had been quietly running a program he termed VRE, for Venison Ready to Eat (after the military MRE moniker for their rations). This program encouraged local hunters to donate their deer, which was then processed into venison jerkey that could be packed up into 1 pound bundles and distributed to South Dakota troops who requested it.

The program had started out small, but was gaining in scope and Dr Lechner had approached the post in September about having the American Legion get involved with it. The program could be a boon a public relations, troop support, and membership, and the post presented the idea at the district meeting to gauge interest.

October 6th

The morning after District 14's meeting was the annual Gypsy Day parade, the homecoming celebration for Northern State University. As is traditional for the post, we had a vehicle in the parade with the commander in it, and had candy walkers on hand to toss out treats for the spectators. The parade entry is not lavish, but it still serves to keep the Legion's name in the public eye.



Commander Nemmers (left) and Gary Warne (behind vehicle) prepare Gary's pickup for use in the parade.



Gary Warne drove the pickup, while the commander rode in back. Dale Strom and Baily Job (not pictured) handed out candy. Photo courtesy of Groton Independent News



Baily Job (left) and Jordon Job (right) helped out this year. Baily walked the parade route and handed out candy while his brother rode in the truck and filled the candy pails.

October 19th

Just two weeks after the Gypsy Day parade, it was time for the Posts other large fund raising event, the annual Turkey Shoot (or Charity Night). The night of games and fun is always a big event for the post and requires many members to make it work. The crowds were exceptional this year, particularly for Bingo, and the workers for that game had a hard time finding seats for everybody who wanted to play.



The crowd was large at this year's Turkey Shoot.



Gene Schumacher and Tom Perrizo relax after helping set up, but before the crowds arrived.



Commander Nemmers and Lloyd Just check out the Chuck-o-Luck wheel.



The Show Down table was busy as always this year.



The Big 10 Wheel kept busy as well.





Rich Kezar and Tom Perrizo at the finance table.

November 8th

The Veterans Day program at the High School was held early, this year. Veteran's day was on a Sunday, and conflicted with the school's schedule on Friday the 9th, so the school program had to either be held Thursday or not until Monday.

There was a smaller gathering, of just veterans and spouses, on Veterans Day itself. This event was held at the VFW building.

	Veterans Day Program November 8th, 2007 10:00 A.M. Aberdeen Central High School	
Master of Ceremonies.....		Dennis Nelson
(Please stand and salute)		
Advance of the Colors.....		American Legion Color Guard
National Anthem.....		Aberdeen Public Schools Elementary Chorus
Pledge of Allegiance.....		Sarah George
Invocation.....		South Dakota National Guard Chaplain..... Father Joe Holzhauser
Musical Selections.....		Aberdeen Public Schools Elementary Chorus
(Directed by Susan Appl, Peggy Bunsness, Mary Marion, and Joell Rachel)		
Recognition of POW's and MIA's.....		Dennis Nelson
(Moment of Silent Prayer for all POW/MIA's & Service Members Overseas)		
Recognition of Gold Star Parents.....		Dennis Nelson
Introduction of Organizations		
(Please hold your applause until all have been introduced)		
Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #17.....		Rich Kezar
President, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #17 Aux.....		Donna Misslitz
Commander, American Legion Post #24.....		Steve Namers
President, American Legion Post #24 Auxiliary.....		Ramona Ketterling
Chef De Gare Locale #146 40et8.....		Eric Hanson
President, Cabane Locale #146.....		Marcella Ann Lepp
Commander, Disabled American Veterans.....		Allan Ochsner
Commandant, USMC League, Det. #852.....		Tim Pond
Jr. Vice President, VFW Dept. of S. Dak. Aux.....		Diane Hickenbotham
American Legion County Commander.....		Dale Strom
President, Northern State University Veteran's Club.....		Jason Dean
Armed Forces Salute.....		Aberdeen Central Symphonic Band (Under the direction of Jerome Letcher)
Address of the Day.....		Staff Sergeant Aaron Walberg
God Bless America.....		Aberdeen Central Symphonic Band (Audience Participation)
Announcements.....		Dennis Nelson
Benediction.....	Please Stand..... "Uncover".....	Father Joe Holzhauser
Retiring of the Colors.....		American Legion/VFW Guard R
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS PROGRAM		

November 10th

The Post's annual Early Bird Supper for members who have the next year's dues paid by that date. Dues were collected right up until the meal started, as there are always members who chose this event to pay for the next year, and the meal was again well received. Membership Chair, and 1st Vice Commander, Sam Olson was in charge of the event, and while it does not really generate any members that would not otherwise join, it is still a nice opportunity for members to get together and socialize.



The crowd at the Early Bird Supper



The serving line for the meal

November 13th

Brown County Government Day. Officially this is the responsibility of the county commander, not the Post, but since the event is held in Aberdeen it is natural for the Aberdeen post to take a lead role and we've done so the last few years. In addition to contacting the three schools in



Student at Government Day eat lunch. In the foreground (back to camera) is post member Al Sebert, who was one of the group leaders.



Larry Nupen, another leader, speaks with one of the students

Aberdeen about participating, the Post also provided the meal for the event and then bills out the other posts who participated. In a change from the prior two years, the meal in 2007 was pizza rather than a sack lunch, and the change was very well received by the

students, as well as being a lower cost alternative.



Judge Flemmer was one of the speakers that the students got to visit with during the event, he spent two sessions (½ hour each) discussing the role of the circuit court, and the law in general.



Gary Warne, listening in during Judge Flemmer's presentation.

Jan 21st, 2008

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes provided The American Legion a \$500,000 grant to be disbursed to veterans of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq who had been wounded while on duty. The Legion paid all costs of administering the grant, and the entire sum was issued out in \$500 grants to 1000 individual soldiers, including one in Aberdeen.

The grant was issued to Sean Johnson by the post commander at the January meeting. Sean received, and is still recovering from, a head wound during his time overseas.



The Coalition to Support America's Heroes is a non-profit organization that raises funds to help support active duty and returning soldiers in the ongoing war against terrorism.

CSAH website snapshot. The page can be found at <http://www.saluteheroes.org/>

February 18th

The February meeting is the post's traditional observance of Past Commanders Night. After a meal for all living past commanders, the regular meeting was suspended (on a motion made and carried on the floor) and a memorial service held.

At the service, all living present past post commanders are recognized and those who are present are asked to come forward to the front row. Paper poppies are then handed out to the commanders with the names of all deceased past post commanders, and as the names are read by the MC, the poppies are placed into a white cross.

After all past commander's have been honored, new poppies are



Dale Strom (left - at podium), the secretary of the Past Commanders, served as MC and welcomed the families to the event. Also at the head table (seated left to right) are Paula Beckler, president of the Past Comanders; Gene Schumacher, he post's adjutant; and Steve Nemmers, post commander.



Paula Beckler, president of the past commanders, read of the names of all living past post commanders. The over-head projection can be clearly seen over her right shoulder, showing the bare, white crosses that will soon hold the poppies with the names of departed comrades.



After all past commanders were seated, Dale Strom passed out the poppies bearing the names of the deceased past post commanders. Each commander received 5 or 6 poppies to place as the names were read.



Gary Warne is shown here placing the poppies he was issued into the cross for past commanders.



Earl Shultz was the last to place his poppies in the cross, which was quite full by this time.



After the past commander poppies are placed, new ones are issued with the names of the recently deceased post members, to be placed in the other cross.



Both crosses after the ceremony. The left cross is for past Post Commanders, the right for members who passed on in the last year.



A POW/MIA table was part of the service for the second year. The ceremony also included a recitation of the symbolism on the table, and a current count of US service members listed as POW or MIA.

handed out bearing the names of all members that transferred to Post Everlasting in the prior year. Again the names are read from the MC's list, and the poppies are placed into a white cross. After the ceremony is over, families are invited to come up and claim the poppy with their deceased's name on it.

This was the second year that the post has made use of a video camera and over-head projector to allow the families and others in the audience to clearly see the crosses as the poppies are placed in them.

The memorial service, which the Post has been conducting for over half a century now, remains a proud and distinctive part of Sidney L Smith, post #24.

Other activities have become a standardized part of Past Commanders' Night over the years. The Department is presented with donations (VAVS, Popcorn fund, and Special Olympics) through the Department Commander. The Department Commander himself is given a commemorative flag set from the post. The post also uses the event to recognize one or more members who have provided exemplary service to the post, as well as any organizations or individuals outside of the post who have contributed to the year's success.



Post Commander Nemmers presented the Department with checks for the various donations.



Secretary Strom presented Department Commander Watts with a flag set on behalf of the post.

Special recognition this year was given to Vernon "Bunny" Bunsness for his continuing service; organizing the Memorial Day programs, helping with Monster Burgers every week, and his ongoing work organizing the firing squad for funerals and special events.



Dale Strom (left) and Paula Beckler (right) presented Vern Bunsness (center) with an special recognition award.

John Meier, manager of the VFW canteen where the post meets, was also recognized at Past



John "Pickle" Meier was also recognized as a friend of the post



National Executive Committee member Paul Evenson made a few comments after the ceremony. Also seen in the photo are Department Commander Watts (far right), 2008 candidate for Department commander Ron Kazmierczak (second from right), and PDC Gunner Baatrup (third from right)



PDC Darrell Haskell also made a short address to the crowd. Also shown here are Alternate NEC Larry Price (far left), PDC Baatrup, Ron Kazmierczak, and post second-vice Tom Perrizo (front center)



The March edition of the SD Legion News published photos of the event.

Commanders' Night as a "Friend of The American Legion" for his willingness to help out when needed, and his efforts to make the building available whenever the Post asked.

After the ceremony, all of the dignitaries present were invited to say a few words, either at the podium or from their chair. Dignitaries present this year were:

**Department Commander, Garry Watts
Candidates for Department Commander
Ron Kazmierczak (Rapid City) and
Jim Hulls (Madison)**

NEC, Paul Evenson

Assistant NEC, Larry Price

Department Adjutant, Ron Boyd

**Past Department Commanders Don
Clarke, Darrell Haskell, Walter
Lindemann, Wayne 'Red' Vetter,
Eugene Schumacher, and Gunner
Baatrup**

**Area Vice Commander, Charlie Fischer
District 14 Commander, Del Hiepel
Aberdeen Mayor, Mike Levson**

March 17th



The plaques presented to Mark Stoks (left), the 2007 Firefighter/EMT of the Year for Aberdeen, and Tom Tarnowski (right) the 2007 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Both plaques read "Sidney L Smith Post #24 of The American Legion is proud to honor [name] [award] ~ Aberdeen, SD - 2007 ~"



Several guest (seated at the tables to the rear of the meeting hall) were present for the LEO and FF/EMT award presentation at the March meeting

The 2007 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Fire Fighter/EMT of the Year for Aberdeen were recognized at the Post's March meeting. Family, friends, and co-workers of the recipients were invited to attend the presentation, as was the Aberdeen American News.

To smooth the actual presentation, a photo session was held prior to the meeting with the winners, their commanding officers, and the Post Commander and Americanism Chair. The regular meeting was also suspended temporarily, right after the opening ceremonies, for the presentation of these awards.



The 2007 Firefighter/EMT of the Year was Mark Stoks, a volunteer with Aberdeen Rural Fire Department. Stoks is a four year veteran of the department.

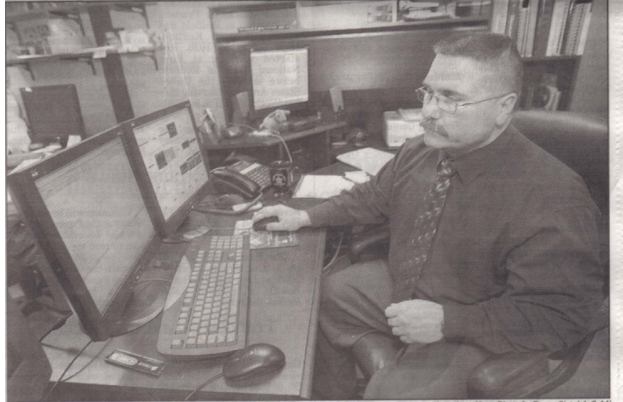
Article from Aberdeen American News (April 3rd, 2008 page B1) on 2007 Firefighter of the Year Mark Stoks



Firefighter Stoks addressed the meeting.



Commander Nemmers (second from right) presents Mark Stoks (second from left) with the plaque for Firefighter/EMT of the year . Also pictured are Aberdeen Rural Fire Department chief Derwin Kampa (left) and Post Americanism Chair Paula Beckler (right)



American News Photo by Dawn Sutrick-Sahli
Officer of the year: Aberdeen Police Detective Tom Tarnowski works at his computer. He was recently named police officer of the year after being nominated by fellow officers. To check out the letter nominating Detective Tom Tarnowski for law enforcement officer of the year, visit www.aberdeennews.com.

Detective finds his calling

By Emily Arthur-Richardt
earthur@aberdeennews.com

Detective Tom Tarnowski of the Aberdeen Police Department calls his profession "a calling."
 "You want to help people," the 15-year police veteran said. "It doesn't matter if isn't that glamorous. The bigger picture is the reward you get from helping someone."

It's that kind of attitude that Tarnowski's colleagues — and the people he helps — have come to value, Capt. Dave McNeil of the Aberdeen Police Department said.

Tarnowski has been named this year's law enforcement officer of the year. He was given the award last week by the American Legion.

McNeil was one of the officials who nominated Tarnowski for the award.

"His performance always reflects that of a person who will give 100 percent," he said. "He'll complete the job and he'll make sure the job is one the right way the first time."

Tarnowski named Aberdeen American Legion officer of the year

That's especially important considering the line of work Tarnowski deals with, McNeil said. Tarnowski is the department's abuse and neglect investigator. He also works in computer forensics.

"It's interesting work, but it can be trying work," Tarnowski said. "It can be disturbing, but it can also be rewarding work when you ultimately get a conviction."

Tarnowski, who grew up in Detroit Lakes, Minn., spent about 10 years working as a patrol officer in Aberdeen before moving to detective.

"I was just looking for more of a challenge," he said. "I got a little older, too, and I thought I had developed my skills to the point where I was ready."

McNeil said Tarnowski has proven that he was. In addition to his daily work, he's a member of the department's Special Response Team, where he's served as the point-entry position,

In a nutshell

■ Detective Tom Tarnowski of the Aberdeen Police Department has been named the law enforcement officer of the year by the American Legion.
 ■ Capt. Dave McNeil said Tarnowski exhibited the attributes making him worthy of the award.
 ■ Tarnowski has been with the Aberdeen Police Department for about 15 years.

To read about the firefighter of the year, check out Thursday's **American News**.

put a lot into the department over the years, and I'm really honored."

The 2007 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was Tom Tarnowski, a detective with the Aberdeen Police Department. Tarnowski is a 15 year veteran of the police force.

Article from Aberdeen American News (April 2nd 2008, page B1) on Officer Tarnowski.



Detective Tarnowski addressed the meeting after being announced as the LEO for 2007.



Commander Nemmers (second from right) presented Detective Tarnowski (center) the plaque for being the 2007 LEO. Also pictured are Sgt Duven (far left) and Cpt McNeil (second from left) of the Aberdeen Police Department, and Post Americanism Officer Paula Beckler (far right)



Commander Nemmers presented Milbert Shick with his 60 year membership certificate.



Don Meyer was also presented with a 60 year certificate at the March meeting.

Also presented at the March meeting were 60 year membership certificates. Several of the post members earned this honor, but only two were able to attend the meeting and have them presented there by the commander; Milbert Shick and Don Meyer. The other members receiving 50 and 60 year certificates had them hand delivered if they lived in Aberdeen, or mailed if they were out of town.

Membership awards from the Department had also arrived, and the commander passed out go-getter pins to several of the members who were present.



Commander Nemmers passed out Go-Getter pins to several members, including Gary Warne (left photo), Al Sebert (center), and Sid Beckler (right Photo)

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